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NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CABINET
DEPARTMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
LEAH W. MACSWORDS, DIRECTOR
627 COMANCHE TRAIL
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

July 13, 2001

Dr. Ghassem R. Asrar, Associate Administrator
Office of Earth Science
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASA Headquarters
Code YO
300 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Asrar:

Re: Support Letter for the Kentucky Grant Proposal in Response to
NASA BAA-01-OES-01

The Kentucky Division of Forestry has worked with the Kentucky Office of Geographic Information to prepare the response to the State, Local and Tribal Government NASA Broad Agency Announcement. We believe this project will be a great benefit to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and we believe the project will also benefit state, local, and tribal governments across the United States through technology transfer.

The need exists for understanding the ability of the remote sensing discipline to discern broad forest classes and extents in very complex communities such as those that cover the landscape in Kentucky. It is also very important to understand how remote sensing can be used for initiatives such as Smart Growth to discern the uses of land in urban areas. Many urban areas in Kentucky do not have any kind of planning, not to mention planning and zoning. One of the instruments that can help them get started is a good land cover/use map like the one in this proposal. Once the landscape can be categorized and visualized, the planning entities have a 'place to start' that can be used to create use maps (as they exist when the imagery was interpreted) and a baseline to show how the landscape is changing in the future. The methodology offered can be proven by this project and then transferred to other areas of the country who – like many areas in Kentucky – do not have the kinds of data they need to begin planning how to use their landscapes.



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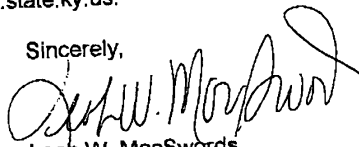
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Our agency is willing to assist the Governor's Office of Technology to ensure the viability of the investment NASA is willing to make in the state, local and tribal government grant award. We believe the information and work products resulting from this project will greatly assist in our:

- Forest health management efforts.
- Visualization efforts for fire planning and fire fighting.
- Preparation of Kentucky's assessment of need for the Forest Legacy Program.
- Establishment of a master land-cover for public education and stewardship planning.

Please contact me if you have questions or for clarification about the role of my agency in the Kentucky grant proposal. My telephone number is 502-564-4496. My e-mail address is Leah.MacSwords@mail.state.ky.us.

Sincerely,



Leah W. MacSwords
Director